

‘Comics on Duty’ entertains Bagram

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – A week ago comedian Gary Brightwell was entertaining audiences in the bright lights of Las Vegas, Nev. Sunday night he was performing under the canvas roof of the Bagram Civic Center.

Brightwell joked that he should fire his manager, but the truth behind the humor is that he and his fellow comedians volunteer to travel throughout the world to entertain soldiers under the umbrella of Armed Forces Entertainment.

Brightwell, along with comedians Danny Villalpando, Jack Mayberry, Floyd J. Phillips and Bob Kubota, entertained Bagram troops for more than two hours Sunday night as a part of the Com-



Comedian Gary Brightwell, a member of the ‘Comics on Duty’ World Tour, entertains troops at the Bagram Air Base Civic Center Sunday.

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Japan decision to send troops to Iraq ‘historic’

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

TOKYO – Japan’s decision to send forces to Iraq is a “historic move,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers during a press conference here Monday.

Myers, here to meet with Japanese military leaders, said the Japanese decision to send about 1,000 members of the Ground Self-Defense Force to Iraq is welcomed by the international community.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi announced the decision in December. This is the first time Japanese forces will serve as part of a coalition not sponsored by the United Nations. The soldiers will be engaged in helping to rebuild Iraq, and will be based in the southern part of the country.

They will work with Dutch soldiers, and will come under the command of a British general.

Western diplomatic officials said the move was a courageous one, and that the prime minister “was ahead” of the Japanese people. Officials also said that there is uncertainty as to what will happen in Japan if the Japanese forces take casualties in Iraq.

Myers told reporters that operations in Iraq are not without risk. He said the northern and southern parts of Iraq are a bit more stable than the central and western areas. But, he said, former regime loyalists and in some cases foreign jihadists target international agencies and non-U.S. members of the coalition. “You can never say that you’re free from risk,” Myers said.

But the Japanese have to ask themselves why it is important to help rebuild Iraq, Myers said. “The reason is that it will be one less place where terrorists can plan and op-

erate,” he said. “The only way we’ll be successful is with strong international effort in there, and Japan has decided to be part of that strong international effort. It has the potential to change the dynamics, not only in that region, but in the world.”

The general said the capture of Saddam Hussein last month allowed coalition forces to round up hundreds of regime cell leaders. “The capture of Saddam Hussein has emboldened some people to come forward without the fear of retribution,” he said. “We’ve seen an increase in the number of people who have come forward to offer intelligence on where weapons caches are, where improvised explosive devices are being built (and) those sorts of things.”

He said that overall the security situation in Iraq is improving, “but it’s too early to say (whether) that’s a trend line or just a

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Iraqi civil defense soldiers patrol in front of Ibn Taimiyah Sunni mosque in Baghdad on Monday.

Homemade bomb kills U.S. Soldier in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq – At least two explosions ripped through different parts of Baghdad on Monday, with one killing a U.S. Soldier and the other apparently targeting journalists.

A U.S. Soldier was killed and two others wounded by a homemade bomb that went off in central Baghdad, the 1st Armored Division said.

All three were Soldiers of the division. The attack took place about 10 a.m. (3 a.m. ET) and is under investigation, according to a statement from the 1st Armored Division. No other details of the attack were released.

According to Pentagon and Central Command figures, 357 U.S. troops have been killed in Iraq since President Bush declared the end of major combat operations May 1. Of those, 228 lost their lives in hostile activities, according to the military.

Monday night, at least one loud explosion erupted near the Palestine Hotel, witnesses said. The blast or blasts, which occurred at 10:35 p.m. (2:35 p.m. ET), seemed to come from a site 300-700 meters from the hotel, where many international journalists stay.

One journalist who had been on the 15th floor of the 17-story hotel at the time of the blast said he heard the whoosh of a projectile flying past.

Private security guards manning concrete blast barricades around the hotel and charged with protecting U.S. contractors staying in the hotel said they heard two explosions.

It was not immediately clear whether rockets or mortars caused the blast or blasts.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.



Ex-Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill

Treasury Department wants Paul O'Neill papers probed

WASHINGTON – The Treasury Department said Monday it is looking into how a government document from the very early days of the Bush administration – marked “secret” and outlining plans for a post-Saddam Iraq – became part of a CBS “60 Minutes” broadcast Sunday night.

“Based on the ‘60 Minutes’ segment aired Sunday evening, there was a document that was shown that appeared to be classified,” said Treasury Department spokesman Rob Nichols. “It was for that reason that it was referred to the U.S. inspector general’s office.”

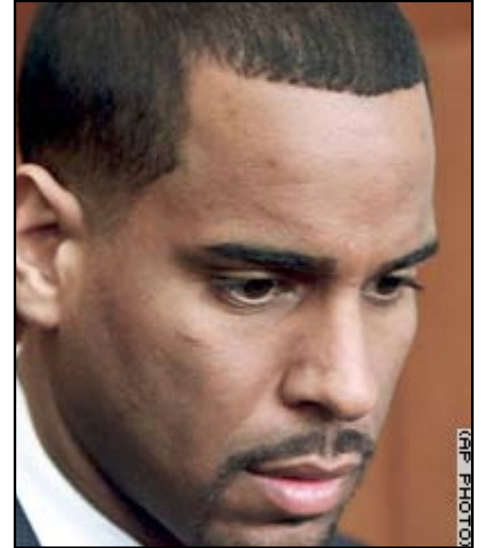
Ousted Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill, now an outspoken critic of the Bush administration, was a guest on the program, along with Ron Suskind, the author of a book for which O’Neill was the primary source. O’Neill said on the program that the administration was preparing plans to move against Iraq “from the very beginning.”

Suskind told *CNN* he had no access to secret documents and O’Neill never improperly took classified papers after leaving the Administration.

“I am certain O’Neill never had it,” said Suskind, author of “The Price of Loyalty”, referring to a National Security Council document on post-Saddam Iraq.

Suskind said O’Neill gained proper authorization to all 19,000 Government docu-

ments used as sources for the book. “He got the documents from lawyers at the Treasury Department when he made a request after he left,” said Suskind.



Jayson Williams

Manslaughter trial to begin for ex-NBA star Jayson Williams

(*CNN*) – Jury selection will begin Tuesday in the trial of former NBA star Jayson Williams on charges of aggravated manslaughter and attempting to cover up the shooting death of his chauffeur on Valentine’s Day 2002.

Williams, 35, could be sentenced to 30 years in prison if convicted of aggravated manslaughter and 10 years if found guilty of reckless manslaughter. To prove aggravated manslaughter, prosecutors must show that Williams demonstrated an “extreme indifference” to the value of human life.

Other charges, including witness and evidence tampering and unlawful weapons possession, carry sentences of up to 10 years each upon conviction.

The trial is being held at Somerset County Courthouse in Somerville, N.J., where the case was moved after Superior Court Judge Edward Coleman ruled in October that pretrial publicity might have affected potential jurors in Flemington.

It could take up to a month to pick a 12-person jury in the case from a pool of 300. The trial is expected to last two months.

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ics on Duty World Tour.

During their “Stans” tour, the Comics on Duty are performing in Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and several ships at sea.

“Our program is designed strictly for the military,” said Rich Davis, tour organizer and the executive producer for the Davis Entertainment Group. “Comics on Duty has been around since 1992, and we’ve performed about 1200 shows and entertained hundreds of thousands of military personnel, families and Department of Defense civilians around the world.”

According to Davis, the Comics on Duty World Tour mission is to provide the highest “network-quality” comedy program to the U.S. military community.

Davis said a unique part of the program is that they try and provide soldiers with headline performers.

He said that most comedy shows have openers and then they close with their headline performer, but Comics on Tour provides a full bill of headliners.

Davis, a former entertainment producer at the Uniformed Services Organization during the Persian Gulf War, said he’s had many wonderful experiences throughout his last 11 years with the Comics on Duty program.

And almost all of the performers told the appreciative Bagram audience that they were honored to perform for America’s military.

Although the performers don’t get the bright lights of Sin City, they do get the satisfaction their performance boosts the morale of Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who couldn’t see their show in Las Vegas because they answered their country’s call.

Service members step up to duty in war on terror

Story by Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

TOKYO – American service men and women are stepping forward to re-enlist, “as I would expect,” said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers. “We are a nation at war. This is the time for our military to rise to the occasion and serve the nation at a time like no other.”

Myers said in an interview with the *Pacific Stars and Stripes* newspaper that all services are making their retention and recruiting goals. The chairman said service members realize that if the United States loses the war on terrorism, the results would be catastrophic. The terrorists want to end the freedoms and rights Americans take for granted and that countless people across the globe yearn for, he said.

Myers said active duty and reserve component personnel are stepping forward to serve. What’s more, young American are enlisting to help fight the global war on terror. “This is the time to raise your right hand and swear ‘to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic,’” he said. “There has never been a more dire threat to our security – and not just to the United States but to our friends and allies.”

The chairman praised U.S. military people serving all over the world. “Our young men and women are serving with great distinc-



Gen. Richard B. Myers

tion, not just in Iraq or Afghanistan or the Balkans, but here in the Pacific as well,” he said. “My hat is off to them.”

The interview capped a long day of meetings with Japanese officials here today. Myers continually emphasized the importance of the U.S.-Japan relationship to peace in the region and to stability worldwide.

Myers met with officials of the Japanese Self-Defense Force, the Ministry of Defense and the Foreign Ministry. “This is clearly an area where we have great national interest,” Myers said.

U.S. personnel serving in the Asia-Pacific area help ensure the stability of the region, and are helping to win the war on terror, he said. Uniformed and civilian Defense Department personnel are “absolutely fun-

damental” to continued stability in the region, the chairman added.

A senior military official said there was unanimity among American and Japanese leaders, and that the meetings were characterized by “extraordinary closeness and mutual respect.” The U.S. leaders spent much time listening to how the Japanese see the world, and noted the many convergences between Japan and the United States the official said.

And it is not just the leadership that views U.S.-Japanese relations as important. A Western diplomat said opinion polls in Japan indicate that more than 80 percent of the Japanese people favor the alliance with the United States.

The official said the allies discussed the upcoming deployment of Japanese self-defense forces to Iraq. Officials from both countries acknowledged the dangers in the move. U.S. officials praised Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s decision to send the troops.

The allies also discussed the Japanese financial contributions to rebuilding Afghanistan and Iraq. The Japanese have pledged around \$6 billion to the effort.

Myers, who has served a number of times in the region, met with old friends and new ones. The Japanese government awarded him with the Order of the Rising Sun for his leadership role in the alliance. Myers accepted the award on behalf of the men and women of both military forces who have made the alliance such a success.

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snapshot.”

Myers said the United States values the other contributions Japan is making in the global war of terror. He praised the Japanese for helping to rebuild Afghanistan, and said the Afghans agreeing on a constitution is an example of the progress being made.

The chairman said that overall, the coalition is winning the war on terrorism. He said strong international support remains the key, because the effects of a terrorist strike are not localized. “Whether the terrorism attack occurs in Riyadh, or Islamabad, or New York City, or God forbid, Tokyo, the outcome is the same: it affects all countries on this planet, not just the country where the act occurred,” he said. “We’re going to have to deal with this scourge as we have with other scourges of the past.”

The United States is working with Japan, China, Russia and South Korea to convince North Korea to forgo nuclear weapons. These six-party talks have been very useful, he said. “Clearly, you would like to solve this issue of a nuclear North Korea, the chance of proliferation of fissile materials (and) all those issues that should worry all of us a lot. Our best chance for solving this is through diplomacy,” he said.

The chairman addressed questions about the global posture review and how changes in the footprint of the U.S. military would affect Japan. “It has been a long time since we’ve taken a hard look at how we are arranged, given this new security environment,” Myers said. “For instance, some of the camps and posts and stations where we are located now in the Republic of Korea are where we were in 1953, when the armistice was signed.”

Given the changes in Korea, he said, these areas may no longer be the best places to be based.

Myers said two fundamentals are factors in examining the global posture in the Pacific region. First, the United States is a Pacific nation and will remain committed to the region. “The other fundamental is the security relationship we have with Japan,” Myers said. “This is clearly the most important relationship we have in Asia, and that fundamental won’t change.”

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Resident Evil”

1530Z at the MWR building:

A special military unit fights a powerful, out-of-control supercomputer and hundreds of scientists who have mutated into flesh-eating creatures after a laboratory accident.

Tomorrow’s movie: “The Stick up”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
Uzbekistan:	Fog/Cloudy H: 54F L: 29F	Cloudy/Rain H: 55F L: 40F
Bagram:	Fog/Cloudy H: 59F L: 32F	Fog/Cloudy H: 59F L: 34F
Kabul:	Fog/Cloudy H: 57F L: 28F	Fog/Cloudy H: 57F L: 34F
Kandahar:	Mostly Clear H: 70F L: 41F	Partly Cloudy H: 73F L: 48F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

Guerrero signs \$70 M deal with Angels

ANAHEIM, Calif. – Vladimir Guerrero spoke a few words in English before Anaheim Angels owner Arte Moreno stepped in to translate.

There was no need to interpret Moreno's enthusiasm.

"He said, 'I am very happy to be here,'" Moreno said. He added with a laugh, "And I am very happy to be here, too."

After winning the World Series in 2002, the Angels stumbled to a 77-85 mark last year. Signing such a prime player as Guerrero certainly sent them back in the right direction.

"After the season was over, (general manager) Bill Stoneman and Arte Moreno asked for an early Christmas list from the coaches and staff, to see what was going to make our club a perennial contender," manager Mike Scioscia said.

"We all thought obviously, pitching. The pitchers who were on our list are now here in uniform. Then there was one guy out there who was on the top of everyone's list. And we've very happy that Vladimir Guerrero is with us for at least the next five years."



Vladimir Guerrero is the Expos franchise leader in batting average (.323) and home runs (234).

Dan Marino returns to be Dolphins' senior VP of football operations

DAVIE, Fla. – Dan Marino returned to the Miami Dolphins as senior vice president of football operations Monday, a surprising move that gives the team a popular if inexperienced boss.

Marino was a record-setting quarterback and the last to lead the Dolphins to a Super Bowl. But there had been no indication of his interest in the job while owner Wayne Huizenga and team president Eddie Jones interviewed seven candidates in 10 days.

One of those candidates, Rick Spielman, was promoted from vice president to general manager Monday.

Huizenga said getting Marino the Super Bowl ring he never won as a player was his "side agenda" in making the decision to woo the quarterback back to the franchise.

"My love for this organization, my love for football, I think that's unquestioned," Marino said. "There are some people in this organization that have won Super Bowl rings. Let me tell you, I've thought about that a lot. Maybe this is the way I can get that opportunity."

Marino will report directly to team president Eddie Jones.

Spielman and coach Dave Wannstedt will both report to Marino.

"It's a team game on the field and a team game in the office as well," Huizenga said.



Braylon Edwards was awarded Michigan's No. 1 jersey for the 2003 season.

Edwards opts to play senior season, 'leave his mark on Michigan'

DETROIT – Receiver Braylon Edwards said he would return to Michigan for his senior season rather than enter the NFL Draft.

"I'm staying," Edwards told the Detroit Free Press for a story Monday.

He said his reasons for staying included "leaving my mark on Michigan, getting my degree and getting my stock up for the draft."

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr and Edwards met recently to discuss his future, *The Detroit News* reported.

Edwards led the Wolverines receiving corps with 85 catches, 1,138 yards and 14 touchdowns despite playing most of last season with a dislocated pinkie finger. He caught 67 passes for 1,035 yards and 10 TDs as a sophomore.

Edwards said in October that he would be back next season because he wanted to win a national championship and earn his degree.

Professing his love of Michigan football, Edwards said his decision would not change even if he was projected as a top 10 pick.

But he said Dec. 8 that he was considering skipping his senior season to enter the draft.

"I like to keep controversy going," Edwards told reporters at the time. "I like to keep you guys on your heels. I'm not mad about what I said before. I said it and I meant it, and now I'm getting feedback on it."

Edwards said Sunday, however, that he was comfortable with his decision to stay.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Taliban attack Afghan post, killing 5

(CNN) – Taliban guerillas attacked an Afghan army post Monday in southern Afghanistan, killing five Soldiers, a spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry said.

The rebels stormed the post in the Khashrud district of Nimroz province and escaped, said Omar Samad, the Afghan official. They fired assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, *Reuters* news agency reported.

“It’s hard for the government soldiers to track the attackers,” Samad said. “(The Taliban) are equipped with all sort of weaponry, having satellite telephones and changing their locations frequently.”

The governor of Nimroz, Karim Barawi, confirmed the attack but reported fewer casualties.

“Maybe more than four have been killed, but I know of only four,” he said.

In recent months, a new offensive has been under way against Taliban guerrillas in the south and east of Afghanistan, the region that borders Pakistan.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 to oust the Taliban, which had provided haven for al Qaeda before the Sept. 11 attacks. Osama bin Laden, the leader of the terrorist network, is believed to be hiding along the rugged Afghan-Pakistan border.

About 8,500 Americans are among the 11,500 international troops in Afghanistan. Separately, 5,000 troops under NATO command act as peacekeepers in the capital, Kabul.

Pakistan prime minister vows to beef up security on Afghanistan border

KABUL, Afghanistan – Pakistan’s prime minister vowed Monday to beef up security along the border with Afghanistan, where Islamic militants are active, as part of the neighbors’ joint fight against terrorism.

Zafarullah Khan Jamali also offered to donate 100 buses and 200 trucks to Pakistan’s war-torn neighbor and pledged to build a railway and repair a road in two Afghan border provinces.

“The fight against terrorism – yes, Afghanistan has been a sufferer, now, unfortunately, it has traveled to Pakistan also, so it has to be a joint effort to fight extremism and terrorism,” Jamali told reporters.

Afghan accuses Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Islamic rebels including remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda network who cross from Pakistani territory and launch attacks in Afghanistan.

Pakistan says it is doing what it can to counter the threat.

“There is no looking back, we have to go ahead with it, it is a menace all over the world...and we have to try to eradicate it, so there is no let off, there is no turning back,” Jamali said.

But despite such assurances, Afghanistan is still suspicious of Pakistan, once the main backer of the Taliban, the hard-line regime

overthrown by U.S.-led forces in late 2001.

Tension flared last year when Pakistan and Afghan troops clashed along their border, which is ill-defined and disputed in many places.

During his one-day trip, Jamali also visited the Pakistani embassy that angry Afghans have ransacked four times in the last 10 years, most recently in July, when anger flared over the border clashes.

Jamali also held talks with President Hamid Karzai.

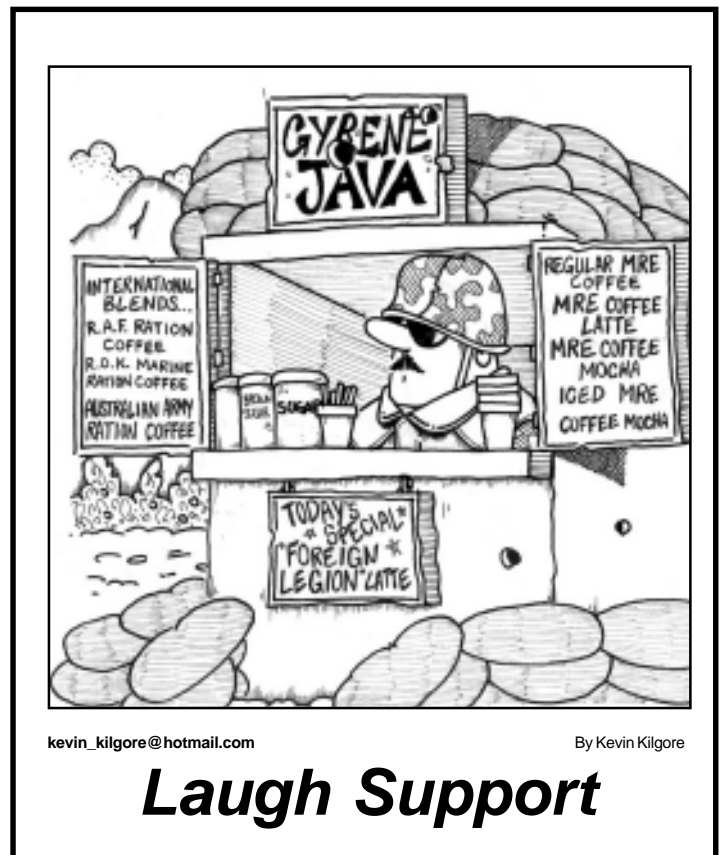
Afterwards he told reporters Pakistan recently deployed about 65,000 “active troops” along the semi-autonomous tribal belt with Afghanistan to stop infiltration of militants, and would increase efforts to stop illegal movement across the border.

Jamali also said two more border crossings would be opened to boost trade, and Pakistan intended to increase official annual trade with Afghanistan from \$620 million to over \$1 billion in the future.

The prime minister said Pakistan would begin refurbishing the Torkham-Jalalabad highway in eastern Afghanistan and hoped to complete it by the middle of 2005.

There are also plans to build a railway linking the Pakistani town of Chaman with the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

As a gesture of goodwill to coincide with Jamali’s visit, Pakistan released 149 Afghan prisoners Monday who were being held for violating immigration laws, Pakistan state television reported.



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By Kevin Kilgore

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